



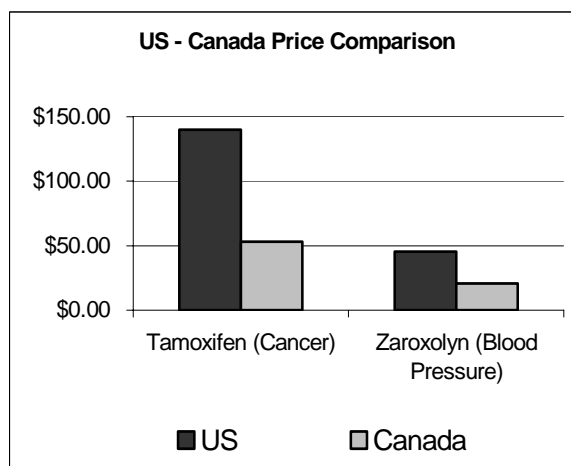
Fact Sheet

September, 2004

Prescription Drug Importation - Background and Status

The Problem

Drugmakers charge U.S. consumers two, three, even five times as much as they charge Canadian consumers for exactly the same medicine. This forces a growing number of American families and seniors to skip their medicine or otherwise stretch their prescriptions, with possibly serious health consequences. Price discrimination by drug manufacturers also hurts the competitiveness of U.S. small businesses and imposes an annual multibillion dollar tax on America's economy.



The Smokescreen

The drug industry and its allies in Congress and the Administration say medicine imported from Canada and other nations is unsafe, but their claims are short on supporting evidence. Thousands of seniors from Ohio and all over the U.S. have safely imported prescription drugs from Canada. The same federal officials who say drug importation cannot be made safe tell us that we can safely import tons of food from all parts of the world every day.

The Response

Congressman Brown supports the importation of safe, effective, more affordable prescription drugs from Canada and other allied nations. He led the Democratic supporters during floor debate of the bipartisan importation proposal passed by the House on July 25, 2003.

Stalled Progress

The House passed importation legislation more than 400 days ago. Since then, the U.S. Senate has passed legislation:

- Commending a sculptor, a painter, its own staff, the nation of Bulgaria, and Smokey the Bear;
- Recognizing "the importance of motorsports;"
- And renaming dozens of post offices and federal buildings.

But Senate Republican leadership has said there is no time before the November election for action on prescription drug importation. And President Bush – who has set deadlines for congressional action in the past – has done nothing to urge Senate Republicans to find the time. Congressman Brown will continue to push President Bush and Senate Republican leadership for action on this critical issue.